

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 03319 221614Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ARA-10 IO-13 /104 W

-----117446 230218Z /66

R 221530Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 772

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CONFIDENTIAL ROME 3319

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, SO, ET, IT

SUBJ: VISIT OF SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER TO ITALY

1. SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER JAMA BARRE STOPPED OVER BRIEFLY  
IN ROME FEBRUARY 20. ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FORLANI  
HELD ONE-HOUR MEETING WITH HIM AT AIRPORT. MFA BRIEFED  
US AFTERWARDS ON DISCUSSION, WHICH FOLLOWED PREDICTABLE  
LINES.

2. ACCORDING TO MFA, JAMA BARRE SEEMED AS INTRANSIGENT  
AS EVER ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR SETTLEMENT IN OGADEN.  
WHEN FORLANI ASKED HIM ABOUT PRINCIPLES FOR SETTLEMENT  
BEING SUGGESTED BY US, JAMA BARRE SAID THAT AMERICAN'S BASIC  
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GOAL IS SOMALI WITHDRAWAL FROM OGADEN. THEREFORE THERE  
IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AMERICANS AND SOVIETS, AND  
SAID BARRE MIGHT AS WELL NOT HAVE KICKED SOVIETS OUT  
OF SOMALIA. HE ADDED THAT IF SOMALIA WITHDRAWS FROM  
OGADEN, SIAD BARRE WILL EITHER BE REPLACED BY PRO-  
SOVIET LEADER OR MOVE BACK TO PRO-SOVIET POSITION  
HIMSELF.

3. JAMA BARRE WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR ANY PROGRESS TOWARD SETTLEMENT AT TRIPOLI MEETING. HE SAID THAT MENGISTU WAS NOT READY TO NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY AND IS PRISONER OF SOVIET ADVICE. JAMA BARRE ADDED THAT SAUDI ARABIA IS BEING VERY HELPFUL TO SOMALIS BUT IRANIANS ARE NOT COMING THROUGH WITH AID TO EXTENT EXPECTED. FINALLY, JAMA BARRE SAID THAT CURRENT SOMALI ESTIMATE OF FOREIGN PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA IS 12,000 SOVIETS AND 25,000 CUBANS.

3. MFA REGARDS JAMA BARRE AS "NOT RELIABLE REPRESENTATIVE" OF SOMALI VIEWS. FIGURES OF SOVIET AND CUBAN PRESENCE ARE TYPICAL OF SOMALI OVERSTATEMENT. FURTHERMORE, MFA BELIEVES THAT SIAD BARRE WOULD NOT BE OUSTED IN EVENT OF SOMALI WITHDRAWAL BUT THAT IF HE WERE, REPLACEMENT WOULD BE MORE PRO-ARAB THAN PRO-SOVIET. GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MINISTERIAL VISITS  
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**Decapton Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014